Decline in Sex Ratio

1004. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sex ratio which was 970 females par 1000 males in 1901 has declined to 927 females per 1000 males in 1991;

(b) if so, the latast estimated sex ratio in India;

(c) whether any study has been made to determine the main reasons responsible for the declining sex ratio;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(a) what steps have been and are being taken to improve the ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the Sex-ratio which was 972 in 1901 has declined to 927 in 1991, which is the latest available information.

(c) and (d) Studies conducted in 9 States inter-alia reveal the main reasons as strong son preference, low level of female education, socio, economic factors and low age of marriage resulting in increased risk in pregnancy and child birth.

(e) Detection and selective abortion of female foetuses has been made illegal in the country from 1st January, 1996 under the Pre-natal diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. Various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the development of women and girl child. Attempts are also being made to project positive images of girl child so as to bring about changes in social attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness on various issues relating to girl child.

Efforts to make Programmes of Urdu Service of Air Audible

1005. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme of Urdu Service of All India Radio are extremely popular in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the programmes are not properly audible in many parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to make the programmes properly audible in all parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: (a) The programme of Urdu Service of All India Radio are popular in North India and some parts of the north-west.

(b) and (c) Even though the Urdu Service of All India Radio is primarily targetted for audience across the Western border of the country, it is clearly audible in the Northern and North-Western part of the country also. Moreover, most of the regional Kendras have their own component of Urdu Progrmmes. National Channel of All India Radio has also a 25-minute daily programme in Urdu.

Finding Enquiry reports of SEBI regarding issue of Duplicate Shares

1006. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1179 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 1996, and state:

(a) the measures Governemnt proposes to adopt in the light of findings of enquiry report of SEBI in the matter of issue of millions of duplicate shares by the Reliance Group of Industries; and

(b) whether the reports suggest the need for major changes in the structure and mode of operations of the Unit Trust of India and other major public financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Inthe light of th efindings contained in the insepction Report of SEBI on matters relating to the issue of duplicate shares by the Reliance Industries Ltd., the Department of Company Affairs has launched prosecution in the competent Court of Law on 12.7.96 under Section 84 (2), 84 (3), 84 (4) read with the Companies (Issue of Shares Certifiicates) Rules, 1960 and Section 113(1) of the Companies Act, 1956. Accordingly, the matter is sub-judice.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has also issued a notice to RCS to show cause as to why the registration granted to them under the SEBI (Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agent) Regulations, 1993, enabling them to function as a Registrtar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agent, should not be cancelled.

(b) Although the Report does not deal with these issues, it has recommended that the Unit Trust of India should get separated from the Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, which is acting as a custodian.

Outbreak of Gastro-enteritis in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

1007. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gastro-enteritis and other water-borne diseases have raised their hydra-heads this year in Maharashtra's Thane region in particular and Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the toll of life claimed so far;

(c) what number of cases of various such diseases in each State and Union Territories were reported; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to curb and contain in the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Information is being obtained from the States of Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh.

(c) A statement is attached (*see* below).

(d) The measures normally taken by the health authorities to prevent these diseases are:—

1. Provision of safe drinking water.
2. Improvement of food and personal hygiene.
3. Safe disposal of human excreta.
4. Appropriate Health Education.
5. Surveillance and monitoring.
6. Distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

Statement

S.No.	State	1996 (upto 8.6.96)
		Cases reported
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	—
4.	Bihar	—
5.	Goa	0
6.	Gujarat	117
7.	Haryana	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0
10.	Karnataka	225
11.	Kerala	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0
13.	Maharashtra	123
14.	Manipur	0
15.	Meghalaya	0
16.	Mizoram	0
17.	Nagaland	0
18.	Orissa	0
19.	Punjab	0
20.	Rajasthan	0
21.	Sikkim	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	350